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Hi Chris,

I have a son in special education that has been receiving services since he was 3 years of age. He currently attends the Fairfield Woods Middle School and is in the ABA program. He is non-verbal with other significant delays and has been diagnosed with PDD-NOS.

I am highly opposed to the changes to the ABA program allowing uncertified persons to administer ABA services. When my son was diagnosed, it rocked our world but then when we heard about ABA therapy.

This type of teaching would allow him to learn in a way he never was able to (like typical children by watching and doing). We saw the results immediately and were so relieved! Although, this type of training is not easy to learn yet administer.

We, as his parents, took a week long training by the Redwood Learning Center in New Jersey, just so we could reinforce the teaching that was being done in the school system. We fought long and hard to get this program implemented into the school system and it has been a HUGE success! There are many students benefiting from it but if you take the highly educated BCBA's away (who have spent years of their life training and educating others in this field) you will be doing a disservice to our children. It takes years to become an expert in ABA and even then - there is a constant learning curve because all children diagnosed vary on this large spectrum.

Please reconsider!

Ingrid Dehler